(b) to (d) Two vessels manufactured in 1979 and 1981 have been proposed for decommissioning. Action for replacement of two vessels proposed to be decommissioned has already been initiated. Global tenders have been invited for purchase of two fishing vessels. These two new fishing vessels are expected to be acquired by the end of financial year 2003-2004.

Exploitation of Water resources

†1764. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of indiscriminate exploitation of water resources and lack of water conservation in 90 villages of plateau area of Malwa, including Devas district in Madhya Pradesh, a severe drought situation is prevailing there and as a consequence, eighty thousand adivasis are suffering;

(b) whether such kind of crises are developing in other areas of country due to indiscriminate exploitation of water resources; and

(c) if so, the measures taken to resolve such water crises and future scheme formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per Central Ground Water Board, Ministry of Water Resources the ground water level of Malwa Belt of Devas district in Madhya Pradesh has gone down due to third consecutive failure of monsoon and uncontrolled exploitation of ground water. This has adversely affected the yield of tube-wells and hand-pumps in the Malwa region including Devas district and has resulted in shortage of water for various uses to the local population. Similar situation has also been observed in other parts of the country as details enclosed. (*see* below)

(c) Government of India through Ministry of Water Resources has launched three main pilot projects in Dewas distrcit i.e. Sub-Surface Dykes (Londhari Nala), Roof Top Rainwater Harvesting (Dewas Town) and Recharge Shafts (Village ponds at five location in Dewas district) for conservation and recharge of ground water.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

In addition Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development are also implementing schmemes, namely National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas, soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers,Reclamation of Alkali soils, Watershed Development Projects in Shifting Cultivation Areas, Drought Prone Area Programme and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme for control of degraded lands and *in-situ* moisture conservation in the country which helps in ground water recharge.

Statement

Name of the districts (in Pockets) showing fall in water level of more than 4 metre (1981—2000)

(Pre-Monsoon)

State	Fall in Water Level
	>4 MTS @ >20 Cm/yr
Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad, Anantapur, Chittoor, Cuddapah East Godavari, Guntur, Hyderabad, Karimnagar, Khamman, Krishna, Kurnool, Mahaboobnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nellore, Nizamabad, Prakasam, Rangareddy, Srikakulam, Vijayanagaram, Visakhapatnam, Warangal, West Godavari.
Bihar (including Jharkhand)	Dhanbad, Purb Singhbhum, Darbhanga.
Chhattisgarh	Bastar, Bilaspur,Durg, Raigarh,Raipur, Rajnandgaon, Satna, Sidhi.
Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Amreli, Banaskantha, Bharuch, Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Junagarh, Kheda, Kutch, Mehsana, Rajkot, Surat, Surendranagar.
Haryana	Ambala, Bhiwani, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Hissar, Jind, Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Mahendragarh, Panipat, Rewari, Sonepat.
Karnataka	Bangalore, Bellary, Belgaum, Bidar, Bijapur, Chikmagalur, Chitradurga, S.Kanara, Dharwar, Gulberga, Hassan, Kolar, Mandya, Mysore, Raichur, Shimoga, Tumkur, N. Kanara.

State	Fall in Water Level
	>4 MTS @ >20 Cm/yr
Madhya Pradesh	Betul, Bhind, Chhatarpur, Chhindwara, Damoh, Datia, Dewas, Dhar, Guna, Gwalior, Indore, Jabalapur, Katni, Khandawa, Khargone, Mandsaur, Morena, Narshinghpur, Neemuch, Panna, Raisen, Rajgarh, Ratlam, Sagar, Sehore, Shajapur, Shivpuri, Ujjain, Vidisha.
Maharashtra	Ahmednagar, Akola Amravati, Aurangabad, Beed, Buldahana, Chandrapur, Dhule, Gadhchiroli, Jalgaon, Jalna, Kolhapur, Latur, Nagpur, Nasik, Osmanabad, Parbhani, Pune, Ratnagiri, Satara,Sangli, Sholapur, Sindhudurg, Thane,Wardha, Yavatmal.
Orissa	Angul, Balasore, Bargarh, Bolangir, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Ganjam, Jajpur, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Khurda, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nawapara, Nawrangpur, Sundargarh, Suvarnapur.
Punjab	Amritsar, Bhatinda, Fatehgarh, Ferozepur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Moga, Nawashahar, Patiala, Ropar, Sangrur.
Rajasthan	Ajmer, Alwar, Bhilwara, Dungarpur, Ganganagar, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jhalawar, Jhunjhunu, Jhodhpur, Nagaur, Pali, Rajasmand, Sikar, Udaipur.
Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Kancheepuram, Kanyakumari, Chennai, Pondichary, Pudukkottal, Sivagangai, Thanjavur, Theni, Tirunelveli, thiruvalur, Thiruvannamali, tiruvarur, Tuticorin.
Uttar Pradesh	Agra, Aligarh, Allahabad, Badaun, Bijnor, (including Uttaranchal) Bulandshahr, Etah, Etawah, Farrukhabad, Fatehpur, Ghaziabad, Hardoi, Kanpur, Lucknow, Mathura, Meerut, Moradabad, Rae Bareli, Saharanpur, Unnao.

State	Fall in Water Level
	>4 MTS @ >20 Cm/yr
West Bengal	Bankura, Barddhaman, Medinipur, N-24 Parganas, Purulia.
NCT Delhi	Najafgarh, Mehrauli and City Block.
Union Territory Pondicherry	Pondicherry.

MSP of Arecanut

1765. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that arecanut farmers in Karnataka are saddled with huge unsold stocks of the crop due to steep fall in prices;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no market intervention by Central agencies like NAFED in that State;

(c) whether Karnataka Government concerned with the plight of farmers, have proposed to the Centre for procurement of arecanut at a Minimum Support Price of Rs. 65/- per kg.; and

(d) whether Government have considered the request favourable; if so, the amount per kg. of arecanut fixed by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. Central Government has sanctioned Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of arecanut in Karnataka during 2002-03 for a quantity of 10,000 MTs at the Market Intervention Price of Rs. 60.00 per kg.

Remunerative price for cotton growers

1766. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: